Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Safe Tech International commends the FCC for opening itself to feedback for the purpose of improving its service to the world.

As outlined in the FCC's yearly mission statements, by in large, the Commission seems to be meeting its mandates. However, the goals themselves are problematic as they no longer represent the will, rights, and safety of the public, nor what's best for the environment, planet Earth, and outer space.

In the Request for Comment, you posed the question, is the FCC a captured agency? No, not in the sense "captured agency" is usually understood – an agency captured by the industry it's supposed to regulate. But it *is* an agency captured by an outdated societal framework that prioritizes economic profit, material consumption, and military might over Life, well-being, and peace. As such, our nation seeks to gain, attain and/or maintain global dominance in both the military and commercial sectors while ignoring many other areas implicated in the digitization of our world. And further, the FCC has become the engine driving other nations to respond in kind resulting in a digitally saturated world the public has not consented to. We leave other countries with few options – either to be dominated by the US, or to keep pace with our race.

**Technology Can Be Stewarded for the Good of All**

Safe Tech International believes there is a way to steward technology mindfully and for the benefit of all living beings and peace. But to do so, we need to rethink our priorities and values as a nation. The time is long overdue for us to use human ingenuity – indeed our God-given genius – in the service of a safe technology future for all. If the will is there, we can find a way. But as currently being deployed, digital technology is doing a gross disservice to society in many ways not addressed by the FCC mandates.

In the Commission's own words, the FCC was created amongst other things, "…for the purpose of the national defense". The Agency's purview is to see that digital expansion is done expeditiously and with as few hurdles as possible. The Commission is therefore currently engaged in, and endorsing global races both to space and AI, as well as to attain Full Spectrum Dominance in the military. (E.g., see Deterrence with Mutually Assured AI Malfunction.)

And if these are the Commission's main jobs, it's doing them well.

**Enough is Enough**

But with the FCC's seeming tunnel vision – Hell bent, primarily, on getting as much infrastructure as possible deployed around the US and launched into space – the public has become dismayed. Why? Because many of us have come to realize, as so beautifully expressed in this video/song *Enough is Enough*, Earth can't give anymore.

People are disheartened also because many of the downstream effects (aka externalities) have not been adequately considered, or even looked into at all:

- Health effects both physical and emotional,
- Impacts on wildlife,
- Tech addicted children (for more on children, please see this brief introduction to The International Declaration on the Human Rights of Children in the Digital Age)
- Profound disruption to family life
- Energy consumption
- E-Waste
- Cyber-attacks
- Run-away AGI
- Surveillance and surveillance capitalism
- Privacy violations
- Fires
- Space debris
- Tech-saturated schools, homes, and even buses, planes and trains etc.

These are areas that concern the public as much if not more so than having 24/7 access to the internet with redundant technologies.

Although virtually everyone agrees that the internet is an incredibly valuable tool as are telecommunications *within reason*, many people are beginning to realize they would rather spend more time in the real world than in cyber space and sense a longing for an *Exodus from Cyber Space*.

**The FCC Is in a No-Win Situation.**

Technology is an exponentializer and accelerator. When applied to a given system, it will multiply the effects, positive or negative, many times over. Digital technology and AI touch nearly every aspect of our lives, our world, geopolitics and beyond.

No single regulatory body can possibly over-see, predict, manage and be responsible for all the ramifications of their decisions short term and down the road. This was known back in 1996 when the EPA was defunded, and oversight for the technology rollout was handed over to the FCC. At that time, it was presumed the FCC would turn to other agencies for

advice – OSHA, the FDA, EPA etc. This is now more urgently needed than ever before as digital technology has quite literally overtaken the world.

As the world has increased in complexity, and technology has grown exponentially, the FCC now has too many hats to wear. The Commission understandably needs help, guidance and support from experts and the public at large.

Safe Tech International feels it's imperative that either:

1. A Bureau of Digital Affairs be launched that would include representatives from all stake holders – the public, healthcare providers, the industry, energy and cyber security experts, the military, social philosophers such as Daniel Shmachtenberger whose vision addresses the current Metacrisis, psychologists, futurists, environmentalists, geopolitical analysts, people knowledgeable about space debris, the ozone layer and other matters pertaining to space, mothers, fathers, perhaps even teenagers to share how technology is impacting their generation.

2. At the very least, expert committees from many of these areas should be set up to advise the Commission on current and future outcomes of decisions they are called upon to make.

If we put our minds and hearts together, we can come up with technology that serves individuals, society, wildlife, peace, Earth and beyond.

*Technology can be used to:*

- *increase, not obliterate democracy.*
- *To heal, not compromise health.*
- *To encourage not repress compassion and understanding.*
- *To inspire not quash curiosity and exploration.*
- *To promote peace, not further war.*
- *To support self-sovereignty not surveillance.*

*In short to create a world where we live comfortably within planetary bounds, and perhaps even help soften our seemingly endless appetite for ever more monetary, material, and military expansion.*

**How Technology Is Being Used in Taiwan to Increase Democracy**

One very inspiring example is being carried out in Taiwan by Audrey Tang as described in this podcast interview by Nate Hagens – Digital Democracy: Moving Beyond 'Big Tech' to Save Open Societies.

Briefly, this inspiring podcast discusses how online citizen assemblies (interestingly enough, assisted by AI) are helping to increase democracy and citizen representation in the Taiwanese Parliament.

Audrey Tang also describes how the algorithms used for social media in Taiwan promote posts that bring diverse groups and people together, in contrast to our current social media algorithms that promote division, silos, and polarization.

These are living examples of how human ingenuity *can* develop technology for the betterment of society. But it will take more than one lone agency to help bring about this kind of world.

**In Summary**

So no, the FCC is not a "captured agency" in the sense of being captured by the industry it's supposed to regulate. But it *is* captured by the norms of a dysfunctional civilization that prioritizes so-called "progress" – understood as economic, material, and military expansion – over common sense, the environment, well-being, and Life itself.

If we truly want the US to be a global leader, let's prioritize wisdom and foresight over profit and military might in all future decisions at the FCC pertaining to the rollout of digital technology . We may then become worthy of true leadership.

Thank you.

Comments submitted by Kate Kheel on behalf of Safe Tech International,
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